

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 21

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 13, 1950

Obeying Laws

By Walter E. Myer

"YOU ought to obey the law—every law, even the traffic regulations and the rules of the school." Such advice is often given, and few will question its wisdom. And yet law is frequently violated. There is more disobedience, less real regard for law in America than one would expect in a nation whose citizens have had such unusual educational opportunities.

This seems rather a strange thing. One might expect people to be scornful of laws imposed upon them by dictators. They might then excuse themselves on the ground that only by disobedience could they assert their rights. They might claim they were not bound to respect laws in the making of which they had no part.

But in the United States laws come from the people themselves or their representatives. There seems little excuse for the disregard of laws which the people make and which they may change at will. All people do not approve every law, to be sure, but a majority makes or unmakes laws, and, if we accept the principle of democratic government, we must all agree to abide by whatever the majority does.

Why is there such widespread disrespect for law in the United States? It must be that many people, while agreeing in a general way that laws should be obeyed, do not take the necessity of obedience seriously. Why, they may ask, should we obey law at all times?

There are several good reasons. One is that it is safer to do so. A person who violates law endangers his own security and happiness. He is likely to get into trouble. He does not intend to do so when he begins by violating the rules of the class or the school. He thinks little about it when he disobeys traffic regulations or other city ordinances. But these violations tend to break down regard for law and it is easier, as time goes on, to violate other rules and laws.

Eventually the law violator, without thinking of himself as a very bad person, may offend in such a way as to cause himself and his family much trouble and grief. The surest safeguard against such a possibility is for each person to get into the habit of obeying law on every occasion. Then an atmosphere of respect will be created in the school and the community. You, yourself, will be safer for the double reason that you will not commit a crime and that others are less likely to do so.

There are other reasons for support of the law, however, aside from fear of consequences. There is the real satisfaction which comes to any person when he knows that he is playing the game of life fairly and honestly; when he obeys the rules, and helps to make his home, his school, or his community what it ought to be.

Civilized living together comes only from making general rules of conduct, and there can be no progress unless all or nearly all the people are intelligent and high-minded enough to conform.



Walter E. Myer



TWO-WAY KEYHOLE. Russia and the United States both wonder how far the other has gone in developing atomic and hydrogen weapons.

Work on the H-Bomb

U. S. Scientists Push Development of Weapon as Nation Debates the Many Important Issues It Brings to the Fore

THE United States is now going ahead at full speed in making the hydrogen bomb. Our top scientists and engineers are combining their skills to produce this powerful, new weapon as quickly as possible. Atomic experts predict that the nation will produce its first H-bomb within a year.

In the 10 days that have passed since the President announced that we were working on a hydrogen bomb, it has been the chief topic of conversation up and down the land. Everyone agrees that the production of this new weapon and the making of the original atomic bomb are two outstanding developments of our time. In fact, they are among the most challenging events that have ever faced any people in any era of history.

The discussion that has followed President Truman's announcement is along many lines. Aside from the technical aspects of the matter, the construction of the H-bomb brings up problems ranging all the way from the government's foreign policy to the daily activities of each one of us. Countless questions are being raised. We shall discuss some of the big ones in the following paragraphs.

(1) *Why did the President undertake by himself to make a decision of such significance to the whole world?*

Under our Constitution, the President is Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the nation. It is up to him to take steps to protect our country and see that it is secure against attack.

President Truman was the only person who had access to all sources of information bearing on the making of a hydrogen bomb. But even though he made the decision himself, he was advised by the top military and scientific men in the country. Among those with whom the President consulted before he decided to go ahead with the production of the H-bomb were the joint chiefs of staff, members of the Atomic Energy Commission, the nation's top civilian scientists, and the Department of Defense.

Some critics of the President claimed that the decision of whether or not to make a hydrogen bomb should have been left to Congress. Such a procedure, it was argued, would have let the American people, through their congressmen, make their wishes known on this momentous issue.

In reply to such criticism, it is pointed out that the President acted entirely within the powers granted him by the Constitution. Moreover, his action met with the overwhelming

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Progress Under Recovery Plan

Gains and Needs Analyzed as European Aid Plan Nears Its Halfway Mark

ACCORDING to present plans, 1950 brings the halfway point in the European Recovery Program. The gigantic project got under way in 1948, and is scheduled to end in 1952. Although some serious problems remain to be handled, the ERP has accomplished much during the last two years. In the words of Paul G. Hoffman, U. S. official who heads the program, this recovery effort is helping Europe to become "a going concern once more."

"During 1949," Hoffman continues, "levels of European industrial production reached an all-time peak. Today there are jobs and the people are working at them. There are tools of production and the people are using them productively. There are more things to buy and more of the means to buy them with."

To achieve these results—to make western Europe strong and prosperous—the United States has been sending billions of dollars' worth of equipment to farmers and industrialists across the Atlantic. If it had not done so, these European producers could have accomplished little during the postwar years. Their nations emerged from the world conflict with shortages of practically everything.

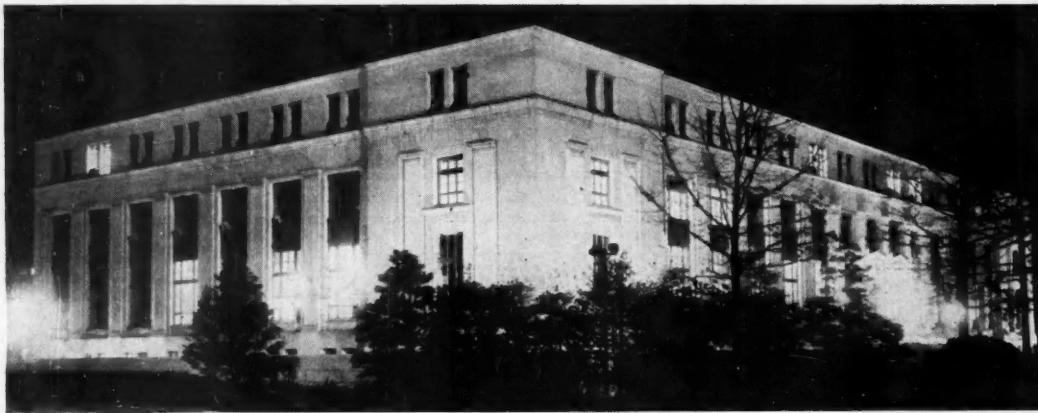
In order to get an idea of how the ERP works, let us look at one of its typical operations. Suppose an Italian manufacturer wants to get some new machinery for his factory. Since he does not have any American dollars for making the purchase, he seeks ERP aid. He makes an application which must be approved by the Italian government and America's ERP agency—the Economic Cooperation Administration. If he gets the necessary approvals, his machinery is ordered.

The company in the United States, Canada, or elsewhere, that makes the

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PAUL HOFFMAN directs the European Recovery Program



HARRIS & EWING

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION'S BUILDING in Washington, D. C. From here, officials direct highly secret atomic energy projects, which include work now being done on the hydrogen bomb.

Hydrogen Bomb

(Concluded from page 1)

approval of the members of Congress. If it did not have their support, they could have the final say by withholding funds that will have to be appropriated to finance the hydrogen-bomb project.

(2) Was it absolutely essential to national security to begin work on the hydrogen bomb?

A difference of opinion has been expressed on this issue. Viewing the matter on moral grounds, some think that we simply should not make weapons with the destructive possibilities possessed by the hydrogen bomb, regardless of what the consequences might be if we did not make them.

Others think that we should not have gone ahead in building the hydrogen bomb without first having set aside a period for discussion of international arms control. Those who have this view argue as follows:

"A 'waiting period' might have been used in making renewed efforts to come to an agreement with Russia on international control and inspection of atomic weapons. The need for such an agreement becomes more urgent every day. Even though the Soviet Union has not cooperated in the past, we must not give up our attempts to get such an agreement."

"We should have told Russia in advance that if an international control plan for atomic weapons could not be worked out in, let us say, three months, we would begin work on the hydrogen bomb. If we had done this and an agreement had not been reached at the end of that time, then we obviously should have made the bomb."

Antagonizing Russia?

"As it is now, though, if we try to make an agreement, after having announced that we are working on the hydrogen bomb, Russia may be more difficult than ever to win over."

Those supporting the project say that we really had no other choice than to build the hydrogen bomb immediately. They advance these views:

"Under the circumstances, it would be suicide for us not to go ahead. We know that Russia already has the atom bomb and she may also be working on a hydrogen bomb. If Russia makes such a bomb while we delay, she could then issue an ultimatum telling the world what she wanted—and other nations would then have to give in or subject themselves to a hydrogen bomb attack."

"To be sure, we must make every effort to bring about international

control and inspection of such weapons as the hydrogen and atom bombs, but until that objective has been achieved, we cannot let up for one minute in the building of these weapons. If we do, we may find ourselves under Russian domination. There is abundant evidence that Russia has obtained information about our atomic secrets, as the arrest of Dr. Klaus Fuchs in England has shown. To delay our work now would let Russia reap the benefits of our progress."

(3) What are the possibilities of the hydrogen bomb?

It has no peacetime application and can be used only for destructive purposes. Views vary a good deal concerning its military possibilities. It may be anywhere from 10 to 1,000 times more powerful than present atomic bombs, according to estimates.

The view has been put forth that the bomb, despite its tremendous power, might not be as effective in warfare as some people think. In a country where industry is as widely spread out as it is said to be in Russia, for example, it would not do the damage that it might inflict in a country where industry was largely concentrated in a few areas.

At the same time, it should not be forgotten that the H-bomb will unquestionably be the most powerful weapon in history. No matter what is said about its effectiveness under certain conditions, possession of the weapon will definitely strengthen the nation's defense establishment.

While we are going ahead with the manufacture of the H-bomb, it should not be thought that we are stopping our production of atomic bombs. At about the same time that President Truman announced the making of the hydrogen bomb, it was revealed that the manufacture of atomic bombs is now on an assembly-line basis.

One reason for the continued manufacture of atomic bombs is that the A-bomb will be used as a "trigger" for the newer, more destructive weapon. So far as scientists now know, only the explosion of an atomic bomb can produce the heat necessary to touch off the hydrogen bomb.

(4) What should be the attitude of young people toward the future?

In view of the threats raised by the hydrogen bomb, young people might be tempted to say: "There is no use preparing for the future. Why not stop such preparation and have a good time while we can?"

Such an attitude would be unworthy of today's youth. It would be folly not to recognize the danger that exists, but it would also be folly to "let down" or become hysterical.

majority of your generation will enter immediately and vigorously upon the task of gaining a keen knowledge of the powerful forces at work in the world, you will have a chance of mastering these forces.

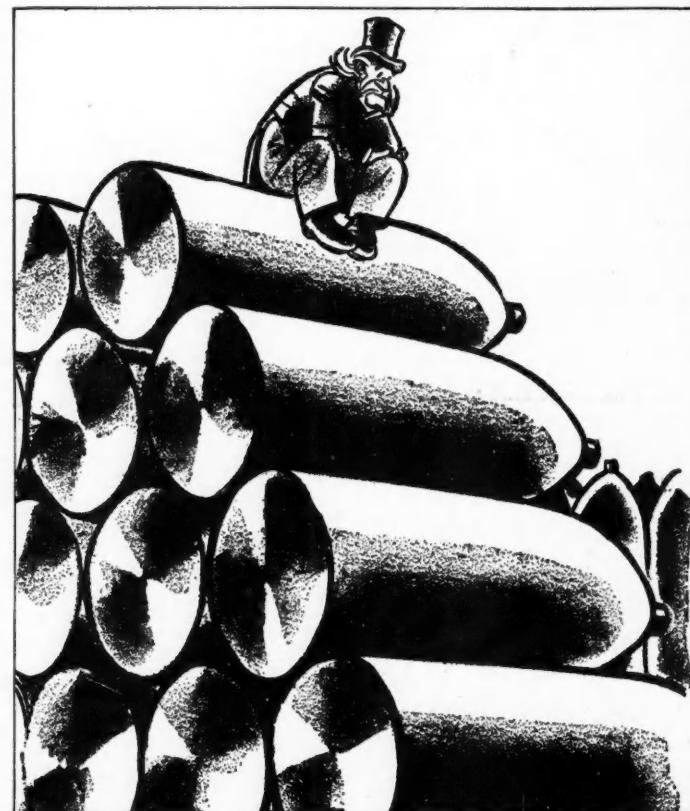
The world is witnessing a race between education and catastrophe. Education *must* win. It must quickly close the gap between ignorance and scientific knowledge.

Young people, if they are to make their world of tomorrow safe and abundantly prosperous, must inform themselves about the great and urgent problems of the day. They must thoroughly study the causes of war and how to eliminate them. They must gain an intimate understanding of foreign peoples.

There should be continuous and extensive classroom discussion of such tremendous problems as those involving world peace machinery, the control of new and powerful weapons, and others. The best minds of our times are writing and talking over the radio about these vital matters. It is up to every citizen to know what is being said on these subjects.

It is an indisputable fact that progress in citizenship training is years behind progress in science. It is in the field of social, economic, and political thinking that we lag the most.

But what good will it do us to be well informed, some may ask, if a nation is bent on destroying us? It is true, of course, that being informed will not guarantee us security, but it will certainly improve our chances for the future. We are a powerful nation, and this power stems from the people. The better informed each one of us is, the more likely it is that our government will be able to deal wisely and effectively with Russia. Moreover, the higher the quality of American leadership in world affairs, the more respect other nations will have for us, and the more support they will give our policies.



"NOW TO FIGURE a way to avoid using them." This is the big problem before Uncle Sam as he develops increasingly awesome and terrifying weapons.



THE VISITORS as they began a tour which took them to Dallas, through the Tennessee Valley, and to Washington, D. C. Transportation was provided by the Civil Air Patrol, an official auxiliary of the U. S. Air Force. The Pakistan students quoted below are sixth and nineteenth from the left.

Eastern Students Attend High School Forum

On Trip to U. S. They Find Little Is Known Here About Their Homelands

TWENTY-FIVE students from countries of the Middle East and Southeast Asia will end a visit to the United States in about 3 weeks. Then they will be flying home to tell their friends in school and their parents what they learned about us—and what they think about us.

A part of their trip was a 3-day visit to Washington, as guests of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. They toured the Capitol building, watched the Senate in session, had a look at the White House, visited the Congressional Library, the National Gallery of Art, and many other of our important buildings.

These foreign students will end their visit to the United States after they serve as delegates to the fifth annual *New York Herald Tribune* Youth Forum on March 4. They will leave after having seen large areas of the United States and having become acquainted with many young Americans. They will know far more about the United States than they did when they arrived in this country about 8 weeks ago.

Even when they came, however, they knew much more about us than most Americans know about their countries. They were surprised that the average person in the United States has so little knowledge of the Asiatic and Middle Eastern nations in which they live.

"So many people in America seem to think that my country is a place with nothing but Siamese cats and white elephants," a girl from Siam complained. (Her country has a very ancient culture and recently adopted the name *Thailand*, by which it had been known during World War II.) Her remark was typical of those made by others in the group.

These nations of southeast Asia and the Middle East are of great importance to us, in our battle against communism. Their combined populations

are about 650 million, more than one-fourth of the world's total. Their help and friendship can be of the greatest value in maintaining peace throughout the world.

To help its readers know more about these lands and their people, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER is beginning a new series of stories on the various countries. It will discuss one a week, along with comments by the students from that country who have been visiting us. This week Pakistan, a relatively new nation, is the subject.

Pakistan

Pakistan is a land of 361,520 square miles, an area about the same as Texas and Oregon together. This area is, however, divided into 2 sections a thousand miles apart, separated by the Republic of India. The population is 73 million, mostly Moslem. Lahore, with 671,000 population, is the biggest industrial city. Karachi, with 359,000, is the capital.

Pakistan's government is a republic, fully independent but cooperating with Great Britain as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. It for-

merly, for almost a century, had been a part of India under British rule. Pakistan independence was gained following World War II.

Agriculture is the most important means of earning a living. Rice, jute, tea, wheat, cotton, wool and hides are the leading products. There is enough food so that Pakistan can sell to other countries, but iron, steel, and coal must be imported to maintain and develop industries.

Pakistan is just now beginning to improve its standard of living, which has been an extremely poor one for most of the people. Only about one-eighth of the people can read and write. Modern machinery for farming is largely lacking. There are few big industries to provide manufactured goods of the type that we produce in such great quantities.

A program is now under way to modernize industry and agriculture. Real efforts are also being made to educate the masses of people.

Student Comments

Miss Nadira Aziz of Bengal, and Mr. Jehangir Mirza of Karachi, are the 2 students from Pakistan visiting our country. Here are some of their impressions of the United States as they compare it with their nation:

"The friendliness of Americans gives one of the most favorable impressions. We found it everywhere we went."

"There seems to be much greater freedom in all spheres of your life, even among the tiniest youngsters, than there is in Pakistan. That is noticeable in family life and in the schools. American parents permit more freedom for their children than ours do. Your teachers are less positive about controversial subjects, permitting students to engage in freer discussions of the various points of view."

"Family life is much more informal

in the U. S. than in Pakistan. In our country, each member of the family has a fixed place—the girls as homemakers, for instance, when they finish school. Husbands never help in housework or with the dishes, as many American men do. We young people pay more respect to our parents and to elders in general than U. S. youths do.

"Life in the U. S. is much easier than it is in Pakistan. There is far more drudgery in our country—not nearly so many labor-saving devices.

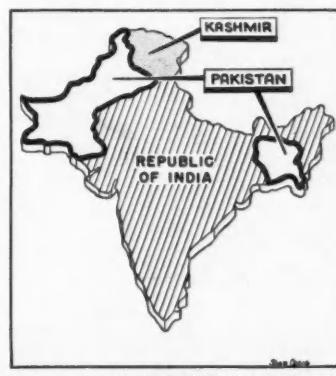
"Our foods are similar to yours, but much more highly spiced. You Americans don't know how to make a really good cup of tea.

"Those young people who go to high school in Pakistan know as much about national and world affairs as do the students we have met here. Many of your schools teach certain subjects needed for daily life, however, that ours do not. One of these is automobile driving.

"Students in Pakistan are greatly interested in politics, because our nation is new. We are proud of the achievements we have already made as an independent country. New schools and industries are being established. Real efforts are being made to modernize our country. We are not afraid to recognize our defects, and we are seeking to correct them. We are proud of the kindly way in which our government handles refugees and minority groups.

"Public libraries are to be found in most areas of Pakistan. Newspapers are available for all people who can read. Radios are becoming more and more numerous.

"Games and sports in Pakistan are much like yours. They include tennis, golf, basketball, swimming, hockey. British games such as soccer, badminton, and cricket are popular. Baseball is not played in our country, nor is football as you play it."



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY CRAIG
PAKISTAN is divided into separate parts which lie on opposite sides of the Republic of India.

The Story of the Week

Indo-Chinese Conflict

Many observers are closely studying developments in Indo-China, where the Communist-led rebel government has been recognized by both Russia and the Chinese Communist regime. Some commentators fear that the rebels, who are fighting the French for control of Viet Nam, a portion of Indo-China, may now receive military supplies from the Soviet Union and the Peiping government. Others are afraid that the Chinese Communists may go even further and send some of their troops to take part in the Indo-Chinese conflict.

Fighting between the Communist-



ACME
13 TONS of ivory. Elephant tusks have been brought to London for an auction. Much of the ivory seen here will go into piano keys.

led rebels and the French forces began some weeks after World War II. For a while, it was believed that the rebels merely wanted to free their country from French domination and establish an independent republic. In recent months, however, most observers have come to the conclusion that the rebel forces are completely controlled by the Communists and are solely interested in setting up a Communist regime.

Under an agreement signed some time ago, a government has been formed in Viet Nam that is loyal to the French. The people of Viet Nam have the right to run their own affairs, though the French retain control of the army and the nation's relations with foreign countries.

The head of the loyal Viet Nam regime is Bao Dai, who formerly was emperor of Annam, a province of Indo-China. As we go to press, the United States and Great Britain are reported to be planning to recognize the Bao Dai government, on the grounds that it is the only legally constituted regime in Viet Nam territory.

More "Greats" in Sports

Since the publication of our last issue, the Associated Press has disclosed the results of three more surveys it has conducted to determine the greatest athletes of the last 50 years. Jack Dempsey was voted by the nation's sports writers as the greatest fighter since 1900; Bobby Jones, as the greatest golfer; George Mikan, as the greatest basketball player.

Dempsey was born in 1895 in Massasa, Colorado, where he spent most of his youth. He won the world's heavyweight championship in 1919, when he defeated Jess Willard. Dempsey lost the championship title to Gene Tunney in 1926; tried to recapture it in 1927, but Tunney won this bout too.

Bobby Jones of Atlanta, Georgia, was voted the greatest golfer of the first half of this century chiefly on the basis of the four championship titles he won in one year. He accomplished this feat in 1930 when he swept the U. S. and British Open tournaments, and the U. S. and British Amateur contests. Jones was born 47 years ago. He won the U. S. Open title for the first time when he was only 21.

George Mikan has had a national reputation as a basketball player ever since he was a member of the De Paul University team and scored 53 points in a game against Rhode Island State. He now plays with the Minneapolis Lakers, a professional team in the National Basketball Association.

Population Survey

A UN project is now underway to determine the exact size of the world's population. The UN will not conduct the census itself but will provide countries taking part in the survey with trained advisers and other forms of assistance.

Besides counting the number of people there are in the world, the UN survey is expected to collect many facts that have been unknown up to now. It will, for instance, seek to find out the exact number of persons who have had an elementary, high school, or college education. It will also try to determine the size of the world's rural population as compared with its urban population. Other information will be obtained.

Several countries have already begun their population surveys. Our own national census, which has been taken every 10 years since 1790, is due to begin around April 1.

Trial Costs

The Department of Justice reveals that it spends an unusually large amount of money when it conducts a trial that lasts more than a few days



WIDE WORLD
HER OWN BOSS! Aloha Joy Riggs, who is 17 years old, recently opened a novelty store in Kansas City, with money her father loaned her. She's already repaid a third of the loan, and is succeeding with the store.

or that requires a lot of preparation. For instance, the trial of Mildred E. Gillars, who was convicted of treason for broadcasting for the Nazis as "Axis Sally," cost the department \$36,000. The trial of Alger Hiss, who was recently convicted of lying when he said he did not give secret government information to a Communist spy ring, cost \$58,000. The latter figure is expected to be increased when Hiss appeals his case before the Circuit Court of Appeals.

Justice Department officials point out that the costs listed above are in addition to the money spent on operating the courts. They are also in addition to the money spent by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is responsible for obtaining much of the evidence used by the government in criminal trials.

The Nation's Roads

A joint congressional committee reports that building and maintaining the nation's highways, roads, and streets now constitute one of our biggest "businesses." The committee says that each year the various states and the District of Columbia spend literally hundreds of millions of dollars on their road systems, though a

total of 41 billions is needed to construct all the thoroughfares we really require in this age of speedy transportation.

According to the congressional group's report, about 600,000 persons are engaged in building, repairing, and improving the nation's roads. A relatively large number are employed by the great industrial states, such as New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois, but more and more people are being hired by states in which farming predominates.

Foreign Military Aid

Our nation's foreign military aid program, which was authorized by Congress last fall, is scheduled to go into effect within the next few weeks. At that time, quantities of arms will be sent to Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway and Italy. These countries are members of the North Atlantic Security Alliance. They recently qualified for military assistance from the U. S. by completing satisfactory plans for a joint defense of western Europe in the event of attack by an aggressive power.

Under the terms of the bill adopted by Congress, the foreign military aid program is designed to check communism in key areas throughout the world. In addition to the eight western European nations taking part in the program, countries that are eligible for military assistance from us are Iran, South Korea, the Philippines, Greece, and Turkey.

Congress has appropriated about 1 1/4 billion dollars for the military assistance program. Of this amount, about one billion dollars will be spent for supplies and equipment for the participating countries in western Europe. Around 250 million dollars will be spent on the other nations.

Pleasant Comedy

Paramount Pictures has made a sequel to "Dear Ruth," the wartime picture about an Air Force lieutenant who falls in love with a girl he has never seen. In the new film, entitled "Dear Wife," the lieutenant and the girl are married but, because of the



INTERNATIONAL NEWS
POLITICS, CUBAN STYLE. Candidates for office in Cuba have already begun their campaigns, though the elections will not be held until June. The voters, too, are taking part in the campaign. They've begun to throw ink at pictures of candidates they do not like.

housing shortage, they live with the girl's parents. As can be imagined, friction develops from time to time.

As in "Dear Ruth," William Holden and Joan Caulfield are the stars of the picture. Billy De Wolfe is a former suitor of Miss Caulfield's who annoys Holden by constantly showing up at family gatherings. Edward Arnold and Mary Philips play the parts of Miss Caulfield's parents while Mona Freeman once again has the role of the bratty younger sister.

Part of the story centers around a political campaign, in which Holden runs against his father-in-law for a seat in the state legislature. Arnold, needless to say, does not look too kindly on his son-in-law's aspirations and as a result there is a great ruckus in the family.

Military Maneuvers

United States and Canadian troops are taking part in joint maneuvers in the Yukon and eastern and northern Alaska. The purpose of the maneuvers is to train ground and air troops in sub-zero fighting and to teach top American and Canadian commanders what might be expected in the event their respective countries were invaded from the north.

The operation has been given the name of "Exercise Sweetbriar." When it is concluded some time in the next few weeks, U. S. and Canadian military leaders will decide which side "won" the mock "war." The "aggressor" force is supposed to be invading Alaska from the region north of Fairbanks. The "defensive" troops are parrying the "enemy's" thrusts near Whitehorse, in the Yukon Territory, and Northway, in eastern Alaska.

Within the next month or so, the U. S. Army, Navy and Air Force will stage a purely American military maneuver in the Caribbean area. In this exercise, called "Operation Portrex," an amphibious force will attempt to "invade" the island of Vieques, which is to the east of Puerto Rico.

The purpose of the exercise is to test some new theories regarding the invasion of an island as well as to train ground troops in amphibious warfare.

Another purpose is to study the effects of an airborne invasion conducted at the same time as the invasion from the sea. In the airborne phase of the operation, special troops will be dropped behind the enemy's lines and attempt to isolate the defending troops from their supply centers in the rear.

Fashion Note

According to the latest reports from the nation's fashion centers, men will be wearing more colorful clothes this spring and summer than they have in a long time. Many members of the "stronger" sex are expected to resist this development, preferring to stick to plain grays and browns, but a considerable number may fall victim to the new trend in men's wearing apparel.

The most striking changes this year are due to take place in men's slacks and shirts, where pastel shades have already won a toehold in recent years. The pajama trade says it will feature a variety of flashy numbers, including a pair of jet black pants and a jet black shirt with a flaming red collar. A Chinese dragon will appear in the center of the shirt.

A New Campaign

A group of well-known civic, business, labor and agricultural leaders is drawing up plans for a nation-wide drive against communism. The idea for the drive is reported to have originated with George N. Craig, national commander of the American Legion, which sponsored a conference in New York on the subject of communism several days ago.

Delegates attending the New York conference agreed to check the influence of communism in America by setting up a permanent organization for that purpose. The organization will be nation-wide in scope and have chapters in as many communities as possible. Local leaders will be invited to take part in chapter activities and to help arouse the public to the meaning of the communist threat to our way of life.

Another meeting is scheduled to be



"DEAR WIFE" is a sparkling comedy of family life. Billy De Wolfe, William Holden and Joan Caulfield are in the cast.

held within the next few months at which the proposed anti-communist organization will be set up. Among the groups that are expected to send representatives to the conference are the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the American Federation of Labor.

What Has Happened?

Here is a brief round-up of news on several subjects discussed in recent issues of this paper:

The federal taxes on oleomargarine, which were adopted by Congress 64 years ago, are about to be repealed. The two houses passed slightly different measures providing for such repeal and they must now agree on a single bill. Even after the federal levies are removed, there will remain special taxes and restrictions on the sale of margarine in several states.

Winter rains and snow helped some, but New York City is still suffering from a serious water shortage. The city has been observing a "water holiday" once a week. On these days men are asked not to shave and other steps are taken to reduce the use of water to the barest minimum.

As we go to press, the partial blockade of Berlin continues. American trucks are being delayed on the Soviet zone border for many hours at a time. Allied officials are reported to be planning "retaliatory" steps against the Russians in eastern Germany.

Iraq Training Program

The Iraq government is considering a proposal to build several new agricultural and technical schools. The schools would train young people of high school age for jobs on farms and in factories. At present, most of Iraq's educational system prepares its students for the professions or for government work. Few people of that country with any schooling at all even think of buying a small farm or taking a job in an industrial plant.

To obtain as large a number of agricultural and industrial workers as possible, Iraq officials are considering two other proposals. One is to require the students of government agricultural and technical schools to work on a

farm or in a factory for at least several years after graduation. The other is to offer each agricultural student a plot of land upon graduation.

Synthetic Rubber

What is the future of our synthetic rubber industry?

During the war, Congress gave the President power to build a number of large synthetic rubber factories. The government still owns the plants.

According to a proposal now being studied by the lawmakers, the government would sell its synthetic rubber factories to private owners. The President would still have the power, however, to say how much these plants must produce each year. He could also compel manufacturers to buy certain quantities of synthetic rubber.

Those who favor this proposal contend that the government must see to it that, in case of war, we have enough rubber without depending on foreign sources. Critics believe that more progress would be made without government interference in the industry.

New Amendment?

Women's groups throughout the country are currently discussing the proposed Constitutional Amendment recently passed by the Senate. The Amendment would guarantee women equal rights under the law but, at the same time, would preserve the many special laws set up to protect women.

Those who favor such an Amendment to the Constitution argue that there are over 1,000 state laws that discriminate against women. Some states do not allow women to serve on juries. In many cases, women receive lower wages than men doing the same work. Whether or not the proposed Amendment will correct these ills is the topic of much heated debate.

Senator Lehman of New York, while approving of equal rights for women, feels that the proposed Amendment would, in practice, endanger the various laws now in force which give special protection to women.

Among the women who oppose the Amendment is Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. She believes women should work in their own states to abolish the laws that discriminate against them.

—By DAVID BEILES.



BRITAIN'S MOST FAMOUS girls' choir rehearses for a 5-week tour of the United States and Canada to begin in April. The young women work in offices, factories, and shops, or attend school. The choir is known as the Luton Girls' Choir.

Recovery Plan

(Concluded from page 1)

sale is eventually paid in dollars supplied by our government. The Italian buyer, meanwhile, must turn over to his own government the price of the machinery in Italian money.

Italy, instead of repaying the United States, puts this money into a special account, known as a "counterpart fund." Like other ERP nations, Italy can draw upon her counterpart fund to pay for projects that will benefit her people. Part of it, for example, is being used to provide good housing for industrial workers.

Projects using money from counterpart funds must be approved by the United States government. This is because the funds are created as a result of American aid, and our country wants to make sure that they are spent for constructive purposes.

In some instances, American ERP aid is regarded merely as a loan, and the European country is expected to repay it eventually in dollars. European governments do not, in such cases, put money into counterpart funds. Most of the ERP money, however, is in the form of direct grants and does not have to be repaid.

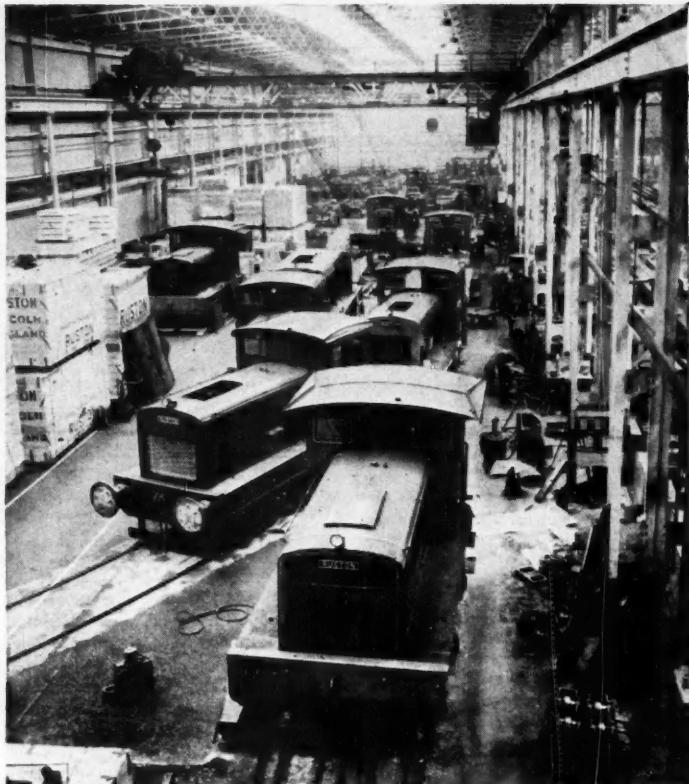
Seventeen countries in or near Europe have received ERP grants or loans. They are Austria, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Western Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the Free Territory of Trieste, and Turkey. Switzerland is connected with the project but has not received any financial assistance from us.

One of the most difficult tasks in the recovery program is that of deciding how the various countries are to share American aid funds. The final decision rests with the U. S. Economic Cooperation Administration in Washington—the agency headed by Paul Hoffman.

The ECA, however, is assisted by a European group with headquarters in Paris—the OEEC (Organization for European Economic Cooperation). This Paris organization is made up of representatives from the 18 participating European countries. It studies the needs of all the ERP nations, and advises Washington on the division of funds. Our government gives careful attention to the recommendations of the Paris agency.

Since the recovery project got under way, in the spring of 1948, the U. S. Economic Cooperation Administration, or ECA, has approved expenditures totaling well over 8 billion dollars. ERP purchases have covered a wide range of goods, including such items as grain, fertilizer, trucks, tractors, mining equipment, cotton, steel, petroleum, and coal. Only about two thirds of the materials come from the United States. The other third is purchased elsewhere.

Largely as a result of this vast, U.S.-financed program, once described by British Foreign Secretary Bevin as "generosity beyond belief," western Europe has made big strides in the direction of prosperity. As 1949 drew to a close, the ERP countries were producing nearly 20 per cent more, on an average, than they were just prior to World War II. Communists, who thrive where there is widespread poverty and dissatisfaction, had lost ground throughout western Europe.



FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES, under the European Recovery Program, have helped to modernize plants like this locomotive works in Great Britain. These small locomotives are used chiefly for shifting freight trains in the railroad yards.

Nevertheless, the ERP countries need further U. S. financial help. The high output of their farms and factories still depends largely on items obtained from the Western Hemisphere. And they are not yet sending nearly enough goods across the Atlantic to pay for these items. According to the latest available figures, the value of their monthly sales to North and South America has been about 400 million dollars below the value of their purchases from this Hemisphere. The ERP countries' sales to the United States, in comparison with what we send them, have been particularly small.

So long as this situation continues, Europe will have to obtain grants and loans of U. S. dollars if she is to purchase needed machinery and raw materials from our nation. Here lies one of the chief problems that ECA officials in Europe and America are fac-

ing. By 1952, when the European Recovery Program is scheduled to end, will Europe still be unable to earn as many dollars as she needs? This question is hard to answer.

It is believed, however, that the Europeans can do a great deal to increase their sales here if they will make careful studies of American customers' preferences and of American marketing practices. Large numbers of European businessmen are unfamiliar with the job of selling goods in this country, and they have not yet approached it very vigorously.

Of course, much depends on America's willingness to buy foreign goods. This point in itself is a subject of controversy on our side of the Atlantic. The Truman administration is trying to make it easier for Europeans to sell their products in the United States; opponents of this program accuse the President of "seeking to flood the

American market with foreign goods."

Another major problem connected with ERP, one which is recognized both by European and by U. S. officials, is that the ERP nations are not yet doing a very good job of helping each other. The United States has, from the beginning, insisted that the European countries should help to supply each other's needs as fully as possible. American aid, it was hoped, would be called upon to furnish only those materials which the ERP countries, working together, could not provide for themselves.

To a great extent, though, the ERP nations are now working at cross-purposes. They retain tariffs and many other trade barriers that hinder the flow of goods across national boundaries. They are, according to some observers, "conducting a sort of economic war."

One nation, for instance, requires foreign manufacturers to pay 1½ times as much for its coal as local industrialists are charged. Many countries sharply restrict the amounts of certain products that their people may buy from other lands. There are obstacles and complications involved in handling the different kinds of money used in western Europe.

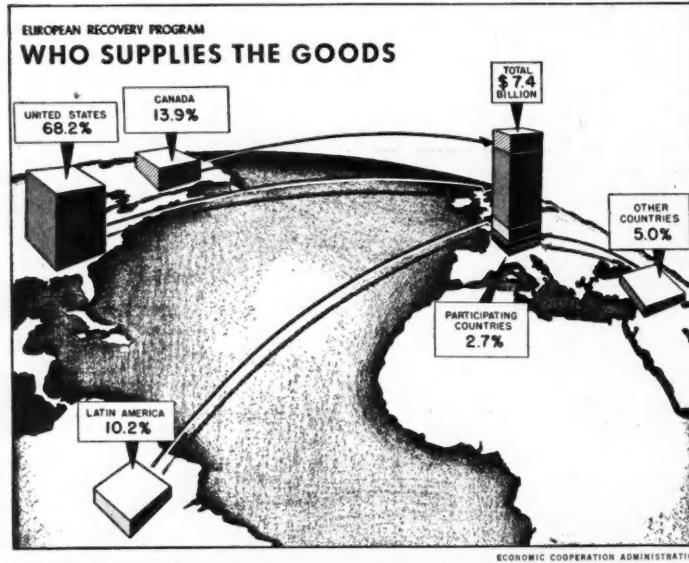
These trade barriers make it very difficult for European manufacturers to obtain materials from neighboring countries, and for them to produce and sell large quantities of goods. Western Europe is cut up into a number of trading areas that are too small, generally speaking, for the efficient operation of big businesses.

Many Americans feel that our government should "get tough" with the European countries, and should drastically reduce ERP aid unless those nations make a much greater effort to work together than they have already made. We should not, it is argued, go ahead sacrificing to help Europe unless Europe is willing to do its full share in the recovery project.

Paul Hoffman, the ECA chief, agrees that there should be more economic cooperation among the ERP nations; he has spoken urgently on this subject to European officials. But he also admits that the job of reducing trade barriers "is going to require some immense adjustments in Europe." Many habits that are firmly established will have to be overcome, and this process will take time. Meanwhile, Hoffman argues, ERP aid must be continued, for it is one of our principal weapons against the spread of communism.

The European countries are already taking some steps in the direction of economic cooperation. Most ERP nations have agreed to remove about half of their restrictions on the amounts of certain products that can be imported. Efforts are also being made to reduce tariffs and to overcome the difficulties caused by differences in money. Whether the ERP nations are making progress as rapidly as they should, in their trade relations, is a disputed point.

This question is certain to get a great deal of attention in the present session of Congress, when that body discusses the appropriation of additional money to finance ERP. President Truman has requested 3.1 billion dollars for use on the recovery program during the year beginning next July. Many members of Congress support his request, while others are opposed to spending such a large sum of money on Europe during the new 12-month period.



TO HELP RESTORE EUROPE. The countries of western Europe can "shop around" and use ERP funds wherever they find the best bargains. Most of the money, however, has been spent in the U. S. Figures are for December 31, 1949.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION

Readers Say—

I wish I had known of Gillian Potter when I visited Cardiff, Wales, last fall. Recently, upon returning to the United States, I read the October 3 issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, in which Gillian tells of Cardiff Castle. I went through this castle while I was in Cardiff and I also paid a visit to the city's Civic Center. I would probably have enjoyed myself much more if I had met Gillian and gone sightseeing with him.

CHARLENE JONES,
Raton, New Mexico



I favor the proposal to send our food surpluses to the needy countries of the Middle East. Two thirds of the world's population is undernourished and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization is making every effort to find food for them.

Communism thrives on hunger. If we wish to see strong and prosperous countries emerge in the Middle East, we must help them by giving them some of our surplus commodities.

ALAN MORGANSTEIN,
Brooklyn, New York



I disagree with the "get-out-quickly" group that thinks our occupation troops should be withdrawn from western Germany immediately. This group argues that such a withdrawal would enable the United States to save the money it now spends on the West German Republic.

If we took our forces out of western Germany, that nation would rearm or be invaded by eastern Germany. In either event, we might have another war.

No, I think that it would be costly in the long run to keep our troops in western Germany than to move out before a satisfactory solution is found to the German problem.

LOUISE MCCLAIN,
Loui, Mississippi



It is my opinion that President Truman has devised an excellent health program. The program is not aimed at benefiting only one class of people but is designed to help everyone. Of course, there should be certain limitations, such as prohibiting the government from dominating the medical profession or using the health program in such a way as to lead to totalitarianism.

CHARLES BECKWITH,
Patchogue, Long Island,
New York



Most of the students in my American History class are opposed to the compulsory feature of the proposed national health plan. We feel that if doctors and dentists are forced to comply with such a plan, they will not serve the public to the best of their ability.

Through the ages, men have always fought for the right to do as they pleased. Under the proposed health program, this right would be discarded.

JOHANNE REICHEL,
Annapolis, Maryland



ACME

THIS NEW TAPE RECORDER may contribute to air safety. It can record up to 2½ voices on a single magnetic paper tape less than three quarters of an inch wide. Permanent records of all communications between pilots and control towers, made on the tape, may be used to study factors leading up to crashes at an airport.

Science in the News

Another miracle drug—terramycin—has been developed from a soil mold related to that which produced streptomycin. In laboratory tests, the drug has been successfully given by mouth and by injection. Clinical studies have been begun with terramycin at a number of medical centers both here and abroad.

It is hoped that the newest wonder drug will be effective in fighting a number of diseases— whooping cough, typhus fever, undulant fever, and certain types of pneumonia.



A newly patented jack does away with most of the "elbow grease" needed to change an automobile tire. Resembling a deflated footstool, the jack has a rubber attachment which fits on the exhaust pipe.

When the car engine is started, the exhaust gas inflates the jack causing it to lift the wheel from the ground.



Scientists at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., have developed a process for making synthetic mica. The man-made mica crystals are so large that they are better than the natural, the experts state.

Mica is a mineral needed in all types of radio and electronic equipment. It is also used for windows in stove doors, for divers' helmets, and for goggles. Most of the natural mica used in this country is imported.



During the past few weeks, several Arctic snowy owls have been spotted in several cities along the eastern seaboard. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service states that the birds do not travel southward except when their favorite food—the mouse-like lemmings—becomes scarce in northern Canada.

The snowy owls are nearly 2 feet tall with heavy black spots on their white feathers. They have a solemn, meek expression, but their "looks are deceiving." When they are hungry, they are vicious in trapping their food.



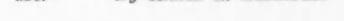
The Army has a new version of the old Arctic umiak, a light wooden boat covered with animal skins which the Eskimos paddle like a canoe. The new umiak is made in four sections

so that it can be folded up and carried overland, if necessary. The wooden sections are covered with rubberized nylon. The craft can be dropped from an airplane, piece by piece, and assembled in a short time.



The nation's largest distillery for making sea water fit to drink is being completed at an Army base in Boston, Massachusetts. The plant draws in the salt water from Boston Harbor and purifies it at a rate of more than 1,000 gallons an hour. Mobile units used during the war were able to produce only 300 gallons of drinking water an hour.

Although the unit is far superior to any other type yet developed, experts say the cost of producing drinking water in this manner is still too high to make it practical for general use. —By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



Vocabulary

Italicized words below appeared recently in the American Mercury. Match each with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are given on page 8, column 4.

1. A *prudent* (prōō'dēnt) person is (a) dull and uninteresting (b) pleasant and courteous (c) impatient (d) careful and wise.

2. There is a great deal of *divergence* (di-vur'jēns) in these points of view. (a) disagreement (b) agreement (c) merit (d) nonsense.

3. If someone is *capricious* (kuh-priš'ūs), he is (a) talented (b) incompetent (c) changeable (d) wealthy.

4. When you *emulate* (ēm'yō-lātē) someone, you (a) condemn or criticize him (b) nominate him for some office or honor (c) write to him (d) try in some way to equal or surpass him.

5. It is an *inherent* (in-hēr'ēnt) part of our form of government. (a) an unnecessary (b) an essential (c) an undesirable (d) a frequently discussed.

6. The corporation is *solvent* (sōl'vent). In other words, it (a) is able to pay its debts (b) deals in interstate commerce (c) sells chemicals (d) is bankrupt.

7. A *self-effacing* (self-ē-fās'īng) person is (a) simple (b) greedy (c) shy (d) conspicuous.

8. They tried to *placate* (plā'kātē) the opposition. (a) destroy (b) appease or satisfy (c) locate (d) ignore or overlook.

9. Did they *perceive* (per-sēv') the meaning of what happened? (a) tell or explain (b) see or understand (c) worry about (d) ignore.

THE LIGHTER SIDE



Although the question of rearming western Germany is a difficult one, I am of the opinion that such a step should not be permitted at the present time. It is true that eastern Germany is being allowed to rearm by Russia, but our occupation troops are strong enough to defend the western zones against any possible attack. In addition, if we did permit western Germany to build an army, there is no guarantee that she would fight on our side in the event of another war.

DORIS WELLS,
Murphy, North Carolina

(Correspondence from our readers and from foreign students may be addressed to Letter Column, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)

Little girl to garage worker: "Will you please fix my kitty? He has a miss in his purr."



"I want some pillowcases."

"Yes, sir. What size?"

"I don't know, but I wear a size 7 hat."



She: "Did anyone ever tell you that you're wonderful?"

He: "No."

She: "Then I'd like to know where you got the idea."



Customer: "But if you are selling these watches below cost, where does your profit come from?"

New Clerk: "From repairing them."



Judge: "You've known this defendant for a long time. Tell me would he be guilty of stealing money?"

Witness: "How much was it?"



Skipper: "This boat makes 15 knots an hour."

Sweet young thing: "Who unties them?"

Butcher: "I can't give you any more credit, sir. Your bill is bigger than it should be."

Customer: "I know that. Just make it out for what it should be and I'll pay it."



"Backward, turn backward,
O Time, in your flight,
And tell me just one thing
I studied last night!"



Kat: "So you and Dan are getting married. I thought it was a mere flirtation."

Kit: "So did he."



ROTH IN COLLIER'S
"You ought to congratulate me for having the courage to bring home a report card like that."

Careers for Tomorrow --- Court Reporting

YOUNG men with trigger-sharp reactions who can learn to take shorthand notes at high speed may find that court reporting offers good vocational opportunities. A few women have been successful in this work, but most of the jobs are held by men.

Court reporters take word-for-word accounts of proceedings in courts of law. They must get everything that is said—no matter what subject is discussed or how rapidly a lawyer or a witness may speak. Later they transcribe the notes on the typewriter.

Strangely enough the actual job of the court reporter is not a hard one. It is the preliminary preparation that is difficult. Once a person has learned to take notes in shorthand at a high rate of speed, and after he has grown accustomed to following court proceedings, the work becomes automatic. An experienced reporter can take notes for hours almost without thinking.

Some court reporters are self-taught. They acquire the basic shorthand and typing skills in high school or in business college. Then they develop speed and accuracy by practicing hour upon hour each day. Whenever they hear others talking—on the radio, at lectures, or in conversation, they take what is said in shorthand.

Other court reporters attend special classes given by a few business schools. Persons interested in this work might ask about classes at leading commercial schools in their communities.

In addition to being able to type accurately and take shorthand at a rate of about 175 words per minute,

court reporters should have a good understanding of legal terms. This can be obtained through self-study, by spending a time in court as an observer, or by taking classes in law.

Sometimes a young person finds it hard to break into this field. Most court reporters like their jobs and leave them only when they are ready to retire. In some communities, judges hire the reporters, but in oth-



TRIGGER-SHARP reactions and skill in shorthand are needed by court reporters

ers appointments are based on the results of civil service examinations. Such examinations are required of persons going into federal court work.

Information about openings and requirements can be obtained from the judges or clerks of the courts in each locality, and a description of requirements for federal court reporting jobs can be secured from the Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C.

Stenographic reporters who are highly skilled are employed in places other than the courts. The U. S. Congress and the state legislatures must have such people on hand to take verbatim reports of debates and of testimony given at committee hearings. Similar records are made at hearings before other governmental agencies. Reporters also take the proceedings at large conventions.

Salaries in this field vary from \$3,000 to \$6,000 a year, with most court reporters probably making about \$4,000 a year. In addition to these regular earnings, reporters are paid at a rate of from 25 to 50 cents a page for transcripts of the proceedings they have taken. Often large numbers of transcripts or copies are needed, and a reporter can earn several thousand dollars a year on this work in addition to his regular salary.

Some individuals find work in this field too routine to be of interest. Others are not able to stand the nervous strain of keeping up with every word that is said for long periods of time. Still others cannot acquire the high degree of skill that is required. Persons who do qualify for these reporting jobs, though, invariably like the work a great deal.

Some court reporters work with stenotype machines—special devices which enable them to take notes mechanically. Information about these machines can be obtained from the Stenotype Company, 2101 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Historical Backgrounds --- Weapons of War

SINCE primitive man, in a fit of anger or perhaps because of fear, first hurled a stone at an annoying neighbor, mankind has been searching for new weapons of warfare. The club, a sling to aid in throwing rocks, the bow and arrow, and the sword—which came along when metals were discovered—were among the early implements for fighting. Later came explosives and guns. And now, the most destructive of them all—the hydrogen bomb—is being developed.

Primitive warfare was essentially a man-to-man struggle. When rocks and clubs were used, and even when chipped flint was put on the end of a stick to form a kind of dagger, fighters had to come within close range of one another.

As they looked for more effective ways to fight, men seemed to be trying to take themselves farther and farther away from the actual combat. Their spears became longer and longer and were hurled, javelin-like, at the enemy. The bow and arrow brought a measure of long-range fighting. Fireballs and liquid fire were thrown on enemy ships and into enemy positions to avoid the necessity for close fighting. When guns and explosives were developed, the range of fighting was greatly increased.

Warfare as we know it today dates back to the middle of the 13th century when gunpowder was brought to Europe. For about 4 or 5 centuries before that time, fighting in Europe had been carried on chiefly with bows and arrows.

The coming of gunpowder changed man's way of fighting. Its invention is usually attributed to the Chinese, but some authorities claim the Arabs first developed it, and others give credit to the Hindus.

At any rate, by 1242, samples of the powder had reached England and a treatise had been written in that country describing its composition. Scientific progress was slow in those days, however, and another hundred years were to pass before firearms and cannons had been developed to use the explosive. Then gunpowder moved to the center of the fighting stage and, like the bow and arrow before it, it held that position for a long time.

Gunpowder and the firearms using it are said to have "changed the course of the world." They helped

bring an end to the medieval feudal system by putting an ordinary foot soldier on equal rank with the armored knight. And they made it possible for a few people from civilized nations to conquer whole continents occupied by primitive tribes that relied on the bow and arrow.

In 1845, a new era of military discovery began. Guncotton, a violent explosive made by soaking cotton in a mixture of acids, was developed in that year. By the end of the century dynamite and TNT had been made.

The development of these new and increasingly powerful explosives was accompanied by improvements in the weapons that used them. Muskets, rifles, and cannon had been the chief firearms until well after the American Revolution. The Gatling gun, a kind of machine gun that could fire as many as 350 shots a minute, was invented about 1860.

Other such weapons followed, but inventions along this line received the greatest impetus during World War I. The torpedo, for underwater use, was greatly improved during the first world conflict. It was "the most complicated and costliest" weapon man had yet devised.

Guided missiles, atomic bombs, and now the hydrogen bomb are the most recent additions to the list. They have extended the range of fighting and destruction immeasurably. They have also brought the realization that man must learn to solve his difficulties peaceably lest his weapons of war destroy him.



THIS WEAPON was one to be feared
200 years ago

Study Guide

Hydrogen Bomb

1. Why did the President assume the responsibility of deciding whether or not the United States should make the hydrogen bomb?
2. What arguments are put forth by persons who think the U. S. decision should have been delayed?
3. What answer is made to these arguments?
4. How does the hydrogen bomb depend upon the atomic bomb?
5. Does the hydrogen bomb have any peacetime applications?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not think the United States should have delayed making the hydrogen bomb until at least one further attempt had been made to get Russia to agree to international control of atomic and hydrogen weapons? Give reasons for your view.

2. In your opinion what challenge does the announcement about the bomb present to young people? Discuss fully.

European Recovery

1. Describe briefly how a manufacturer in Italy goes about getting machinery he needs under the recovery program.
2. What are the counterpart funds that have been set up in nations receiving ERP aid?
3. Name 10 nations which are taking part in ERP.
4. Give evidence to show the progress that has already been made under the program.
5. How is the willingness of the European nations to work together related to ERP's success?

Discussion

1. What, in your opinion, has been the chief value of the European Recovery Program to the people of the United States? Explain your answer?

2. How far do you think the United States should go in insisting that the European nations increase their efforts to work together if they are to continue receiving aid from us?

Miscellaneous

1. Describe the present situation in Indo-China.
2. What are some of the facts that the UN population survey is intended to determine?
3. List three countries in western Europe and two in the Far East that are due to receive military aid from the United States.
4. How does the Federal Bureau of Investigation help the government in preparing for a trial?
5. Describe briefly some of man's early weapons of war.

References

- "The Marshall Plan—A Handbook of the Economic Cooperation Administration." This is an 18-page pamphlet consisting of questions and answers on the work of the ECA. It may be obtained free of charge from the Economic Cooperation Administration, Office of Information, Room 405, 800 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

- "The Complex Problem of Europe's Economy," by Michael L. Hoffman, *New York Times Magazine*, January 29, 1950. Obstacles blocking an increase in inter-European trade.

- "Time For Us To Talk Plainly to Europe," by William Hard and Andre Visson, *Reader's Digest*, February, 1950. A critical view of the way in which western Europe is trying to solve its economic problems.

Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (d) careful and wise; 2. (a) disagreement; 3. (c) changeable; 4. (d) try in some way to equal or surpass him; 5. (b) an essential; 6. (a) is able to pay its debts; 7. (c) shy; 8. (b) appease or satisfy; 9. (b) see or understand.